

CAROLINA  ADOPTION
SERVICES

2009 Annual Report

A Children's Charity... Changing the World... One Child at a Time



CAROLINA  ADOPTION
S E R V I C E S

Dear Supporter of Carolina Adoption Services,

During this past year, Carolina Adoption Services (CAS), as well as many of our families suffered the impact of the economic recession. Job insecurity and cutbacks forced some families to place their adoption process on hold or to withdraw completely. Donations levels decreased, leaving fewer funds available to assist with overseas aid and development as well as operating expenses. The recession forced stoppage of the newly initiated capital campaign to generate sustainable funding for CAS. The decline in applications created staffing cutbacks.

In recent years, Guatemala and Vietnam have been our largest placing countries. The closing of these countries for inter-country adoption with American families resulted in a substantial decline of our placement numbers. Placements declined from 188 in the prior year to a low of 100 this year. The good news is that 100 wonderful children have been united with their forever families! We hope our U.S. State Dept can achieve satisfactory arrangements to resume placements from these countries.



This year has seen staff hard at work to develop and open new programs in Mexico, Nepal and Georgia. We saw the first referrals coming from new programs in Bulgaria and Haiti. Our Waiting Children's program is expanding in numbers with older children from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. A recently started Special Needs China program is growing through ABC Adoption Services, our subsidiary in Virginia. This program enables families to bring home Chinese children in a much shorter time than through the traditional process.

On other fronts, Mandala Adoption Services of Chapel Hill, NC closed and transferred their cases to us last December. This enabled CAS to place a staff person in our Raleigh office to assist former Mandala clients during their transition. The lack of domestic placements at ABC necessitated a reluctant closing of the domestic program. The ABC office was also moved to Martinsville. ABC administrative operations were consolidated at our Greensboro administrative offices. The South Carolina office was moved to Charlotte. We appreciate Children's Home Society of North Carolina allowing us to lease rental space in their Raleigh and Charlotte facilities at nominal fees.

The face of inter-country adoption is changing. During the last fiscal year, fewer than 13,000 visas were issued to children adopted by Americans compared to a high of 24,000 in 2004. The decrease is expected to continue as more countries are able to care for their youngest and most vulnerable citizens. We look to see more adoptions of older children, sibling groups and children with special challenges. Politics, as well as some unfortunate corruption in adoption practices have further enhanced the declining numbers. We are working to promote the highest ethical standards of adoption practice. We are advocating that every child has the right to safety, permanency and love in a family. We are hopeful that the U.S. government will pass the Families for Orphans' Act. This act will establish an office in the State Department that would be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive, evidence-based strategy to support the preservation of families and the provision of permanent families for orphans.

I am indebted to the support of our excellent board of directors. They believe in our mission and have given so generously of their time and talent. Through their efforts, the board sponsored Gala was a resounding success and said by many to be the best ever. Although the economy was sour, the Gala was a financial success - netting some \$60,000. The general public remains largely unaware that Carolina Adoption Services is a children's charity and dependent upon donations to subsidize its mission.

We will continue our efforts to gain public perception of ourselves as a charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children worldwide. While some will be united through adoption with forever, loving families, most of these needy children will continue to live in the poor and developing countries where we maintain programs.

We continue seeking enhanced operative efficiency, and will be exploring potential strategic alliances with other agencies during the coming year. Along with the Joint Council on International Children's Services, we continue ever stronger efforts to advocate for supporting sound, child centric public policy.

Last, but not least, my appreciation to each member of our dedicated staff. Day in and day out they work together on behalf of the children they often never see. The paperwork and governmental regulations they deal with are immense and of increasing complexity.

In closing, I am grateful to be part of our united effort to assist these vulnerable children. As the economy brightens and new countries become operative, I am encouraged by the outlook for the upcoming year.

Rosemary Martin

Rosemary Martin, LCSW
President/CEO

*Rosemary and her grandchildren.
Tyler was adopted from Russia and
Sara was adopted from Moldova.
Providing a brighter future for
children worldwide is not just a
job for Rosemary, it is close to her
heart.*



MISSION & PURPOSE



Carolina Adoption Services, Inc. (CAS) is a children's charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for orphans and vulnerable children worldwide.

Carolina Adoption Services recognizes the rights of every child throughout the world to have a loving, life-long family. The agency is dedicated to provide supportive and personalized services to the adoptive family before, during and after placement. CAS is also committed to making a difference for children remaining in institutional care through ongoing humanitarian relief efforts. Carolina Adoption Services strongly advocates that adoption is a life-long process and that Carolina Adoption Service's role is to be a resource for meeting the educational, cultural, social and other needs of the international adoptive family.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

• Families interested in adoption.....	3953
• Adoption information meetings held.....	51
• Applications for child placement.....	122
• Applications for homestudy services.....	125
• Homestudy updates & amendments.....	139
• Pre-adoption education hours.....	950
• International child placements.....	100
• Post-adoption visits to families.....	143
• Country reports prepared and mailed.....	573
• Post-adoption clinical service hours.....	50
• Volunteer hours.....	790
• New accreditations: Mexico, Nepal, & Georgia.....	3
• Aid & Development.....	\$134,242
• People who attended Summer Celebration.....	400+
• Domestic birth parents seeking assistance.....	14
• Domestic parental (independent) placements.....	19
• Domestic adoptions.....	1

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

ADOPTION STIMULUS APPROVED TO ASSIST FAMILIES



Carolina Adoption Services has been working hard to help families who want to move forward with their adoption in the unsteady economy. CAS now offers a payment plan for several fees associated with the adoption. Families can have a payment schedule for the professional fee, and other fees that are due when the process begins. This allows families a chance to start their homestudy and paperwork and pay as they progress. Families are also able to make easy online payments using a credit card on the CAS website.

The CAS business office also extended one-on-one assistance with understanding the fees, agreements, and contracts associated with beginning an adoption.

GALA RAISES \$60,000

The sixth annual gala was a grand success thanks to the many donors, sponsors, volunteers, and guests that evening. The sold out crowd of 200 guests had great fun competing in the silent and live auction and enjoyed dinner. Guests learned more about the CAS mission from heartfelt presentations from two families and one adopted child. Everyone was acutely aware that the economy may hit us hard, but it hits the orphaned children harder. Thanks to all who embrace the Carolina Adoption Services mission and help to change the lives of children everyday.

CAS SUMMER CELEBRATION

This year Carolina Adoption Services' families experienced what has been touted as "the best family picnic ever!" On June 6, 2009, children adopted from around the world and their families journeyed to the Natural Science Center in Greensboro to explore, socialize, learn more about the needs of the children left behind, photograph the wildlife, and have a great time. The event was so special the animals even stayed up past their bedtime.

The over 400 people who enjoyed the event would like to extend an extra special thank you to the generous donor that made our family summer celebration possible this year. We would also like to thank all the families and children that traveled from near and far; you are what makes the CAS community so very special.

Our families and staff will talk about it for years to come.



AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

ABC ADOPTION SERVICES



- Consolidated administrative services with CAS
- Relocated main office to Martinsville, VA
- Continued successful partnership with Chrysalis House for adoptions with China
- Maintained Russia accreditation in good standing

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- 60 families served by the education department during 2008-2009
- 27 education programs hosted via webinar with 306 participants
- 950 hours of family education provided
- 405 hours of staff training and development offered
- 2 new programs developed to focus on older child adoption
- Invited to present a “Back to School” program at a SPAFA meeting, asked to present again
- Education programs created and revised to meet Hague adoption requirements
- All education programs now taught via webinar to increase client contact and sense of community
- Online programs developed for Bulgaria, China, and Moldova

Thank you again Trudy for your time and effort putting these classes together. We have connected with two families from this experience who are also adopting from Korea. We hope to keep in touch during the process and especially get our children together once they are home with us. We also found the scenarios very helpful to practice or rehearse our reactions in certain situations.

-Tom and Andrea B.

POST-ADOPTION HIGHLIGHTS

- 90 court reports submitted for adoption finalization or re-finalization
 - Both finalization and re-finalization provide a state issued birth certificate, name change for the child, insures inheritance rights of the child and guarantees the adoption will be recognized by all states
- 573 country reports prepared and sent to foreign countries
 - Country reports reassure the countries that the children are adjusting well to their new families and homes
- 100 welcome home packets sent to CAS families
 - Packets include: welcome home letter from CAS, surveys regarding agency service, information on country reports, re-finalization, obtaining social security cards, and U.S. passport.
- 143 social worker post-placement reports
 - Social worker visits insure that the child and family are adjusting well to each other

AID AND DEVELOPMENT

HUMANITARIAN AID HIGHLIGHTS

Bulgaria

- \$400 to Pazardzhik Orphanage to purchase a van to transport children to medical appointments, clothing, and little treats for the children
- \$400 to Lesichovo Orphanage to assist with costs to send children to summer camp
- \$400 to Dren Orphanage purchased new clothing for the children
- A giant suitcase of clothing was donated to both the Pazardzhik and Lesichovo Orphanages

Cambodia

- \$800 to orphanage support and baby formula

China

- \$8,100 for general orphanage support

Guatemala

- \$500 for surgery on an orphaned child's heart

Haiti

- \$500 for new high chairs at the Maison des Anges Orphanage

Kenya

- \$2,742 Micro Loan to farming project with proceeds to help Makutano Boys Project

Moldova

- \$3,000 to support Moldovan Orphan Sponsorship Program
- \$20,235 in Moldovan Orphan Sponsorship Program scholarships
- \$6,000 to build indoor bathrooms at the Ialoveni Orphanage for children with special needs
- \$500 for food and wood to heat their home for a poor family with five children
- \$1,500 Christmas Caravan giving food and clothing for poor families and those families with special needs children
- \$1,688 contributions to orphanages for general care of children
- \$7,000 in cash donations given directly by families to help orphanages and the Moldova Ministry of Social Protection to help the poorest families
- \$1,000 for "Children's Day Celebration" in June for children with disabilities

Nepal

- \$20,600 in general orphanage support to pay for daily care of children, school, and medical care
- \$859 for a 3-in-1 printer and camera

Republic of Georgia

- \$1,000 to purchase clothing and shoes for 26 older children at the Tbilisi orphanage



HUMANITARIAN AID HIGHLIGHTS

Russia

- 10 families carried clothing and toys to the orphanages and made donations of \$350-650 to assist with the children's care

Ukraine

- \$1,000 donation was given to an orphanage to care for the children by an adoptive family

Vietnam

- \$2,400 sent to Quang Nam for orphanage support
- \$1,800 to DaNang for orphanage support
- \$1,500 sent to Tuyen Quang to help pay for medical costs for the babies with pneumonia
- \$6,995 sent to Tuyen Quang to pay for medical supplies, hospital bills, and related costs

Scholarships

- 2 families received a total of \$6,000 to assist with adoption expenses

DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Development Funds overlap and intertwine with CAS humanitarian efforts in the foreign countries. Key to continued intercountry adoption is the exploration of new potential countries and the support and strengthening of relationships with existing countries.

- Three agency staff visited 5 different countries in an effort to create new relationships and establish potential programs and to solidify existing relationships. These countries include Bulgaria, Moldova, Nepal, Russia and Vietnam.
- New programs were established in Mexico, Nepal, and the Republic of Georgia offering families more options for their adoption.
- Continued monetary support for the staff and office in Russia to maintain accreditation



A TOTAL OF \$134,242 IN AID & DEVELOPMENT HELPED TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF CAROLINA ADOPTION SERVICES!

CAS is making a difference in the lives of children overseas. We are grateful for the generous support of our donors and volunteers who make this possible. The wonderful families who complete their adoption often times take suitcases filled with items which are desperately needed by the orphanages. Each and every contribution makes a difference and CAS is blessed to be supported by people who share the same passion of changing the world...one child at a time.

MOLDOVA ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



Lilia Lungu

Started in 2000, the sponsorship program aims to instill hope and self-esteem in orphaned young adults of Moldova by identifying them as they transition from orphanages to the larger community and providing financial support during schooling. Sponsorship dollars enable the youth to cover living expense while attending vocational school or universities (in most cases tuition-free) to further their education and receive job training.

During the 2008-2009 school year:

- \$20,235 provided to support 36 youth/young adults while enrolled in advanced education
- \$3,000 paid to manage the program locally and in Moldova

Ten students graduated from their chosen fields this school year. These students are either employed in Moldova or seeking employment. Two graduates traveled to the U.S. for employment and while in the U.S. visited their sponsors. Some sponsors and students are using internet social networking sites to stay in touch and build meaningful relationship. The need for sponsors is great. Students are referred to the program faster than new sponsors are secured.

Julie Glandt traveled to Moldova in the Fall of 2009 and visited with many of our students. She was able to hear firsthand how the program has impacted their lives. A recent graduate shared what the program has meant to him.

...I found out about Moldova Orphan Sponsorship Program. Some kind people offered their help, giving me an opportunity to go to school and hope for a better future. Due to my sponsors, I could graduate from the university. Then I understood that the world is not as cruel as I thought and that there are wonderful people who are not indifferent to needy people's lives. I know it will be difficult in future too, but what makes me happy is that I began loving people and life.

~ Graduate Igor Avram



Igor Avram



This program is Carolina Adoption Service largest ongoing humanitarian aid project. We continue to seek additional sponsors for the program. Sponsors are varied – adoptive families, friends, small groups, and businesses. More information about the program can be found on our website www.carolinaadoption.org.

Students write to their sponsors at a Pizza Party.

APPLICATIONS & PLACEMENTS

APPLICATIONS BY TYPE

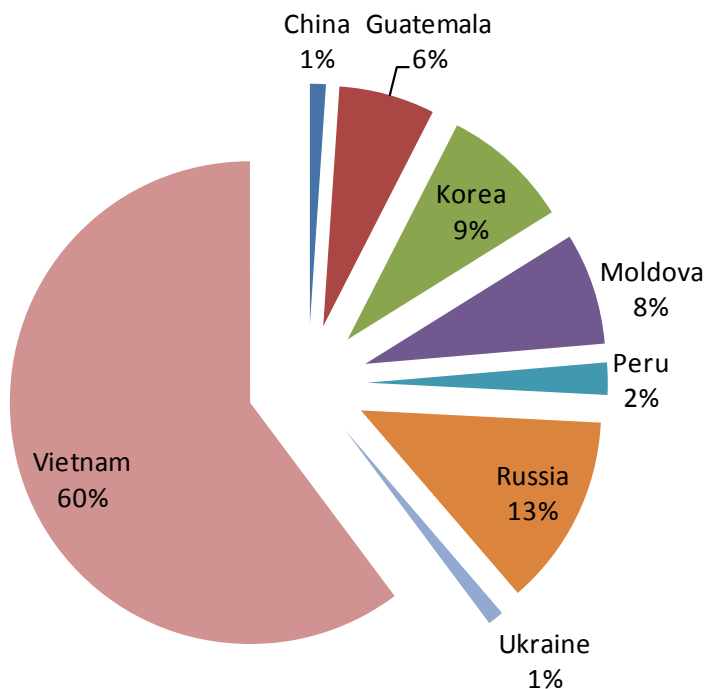
Placement Only	63	Post Adoption	42
Homestudy Only	48	Partnership	0
Homestudy Update	18	Parental	15
Homestudy & Placement	59	Domestic	0
Homestudy Verification	12	Total Applications	257

PLACEMENTS BY STATE

Arkansas	1	Michigan	3
Alabama	2	New Jersey	3
California	3	New York	7
Colorado	1	North Carolina	36
Connecticut	1	Ohio	2
Florida	2	Pennsylvania	1
Georgia	3	South Carolina	5
Illinois	6	Tennessee	2
Indiana	1	Texas	6
Kentucky	1	Virginia	7
Maryland	4	Wisconsin	1
Massachusetts	2		

PLACEMENTS BY COUNTRY

We placed 100 children with “forever families.” This chart shows the number of placements to families by country. Vietnam, Guatemala, and Russia had the largest numbers of children placed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.



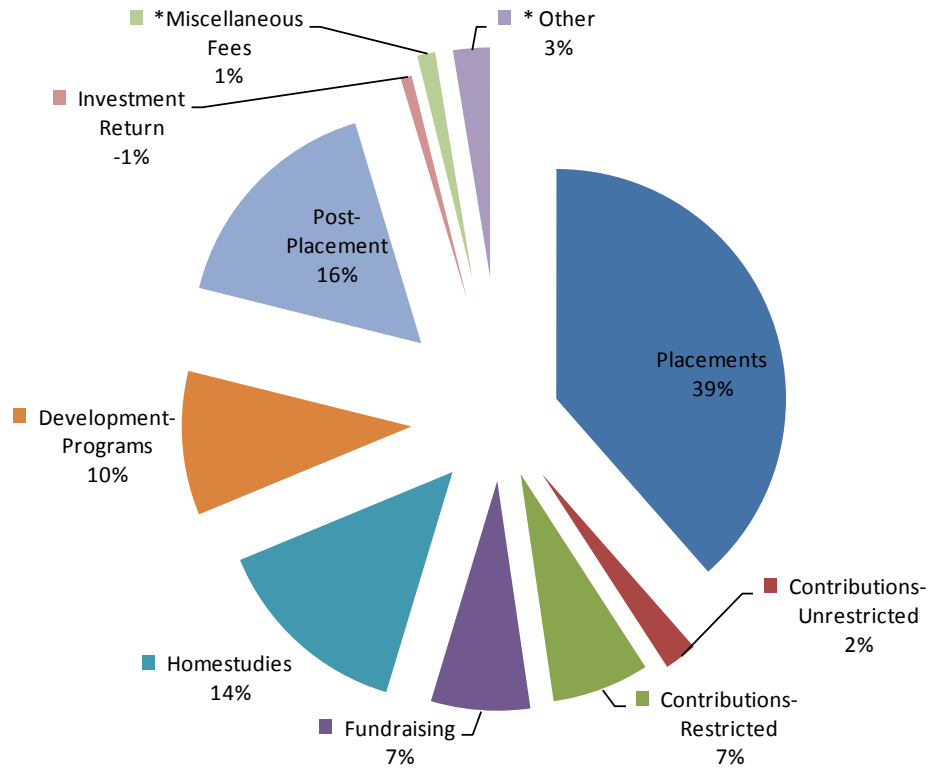
Country	Families Home
China	1
Guatemala	25
Korea	8
Moldova	7
Peru	2
Russia	12
Ukraine	1
Vietnam	56

FUNDING REVENUES

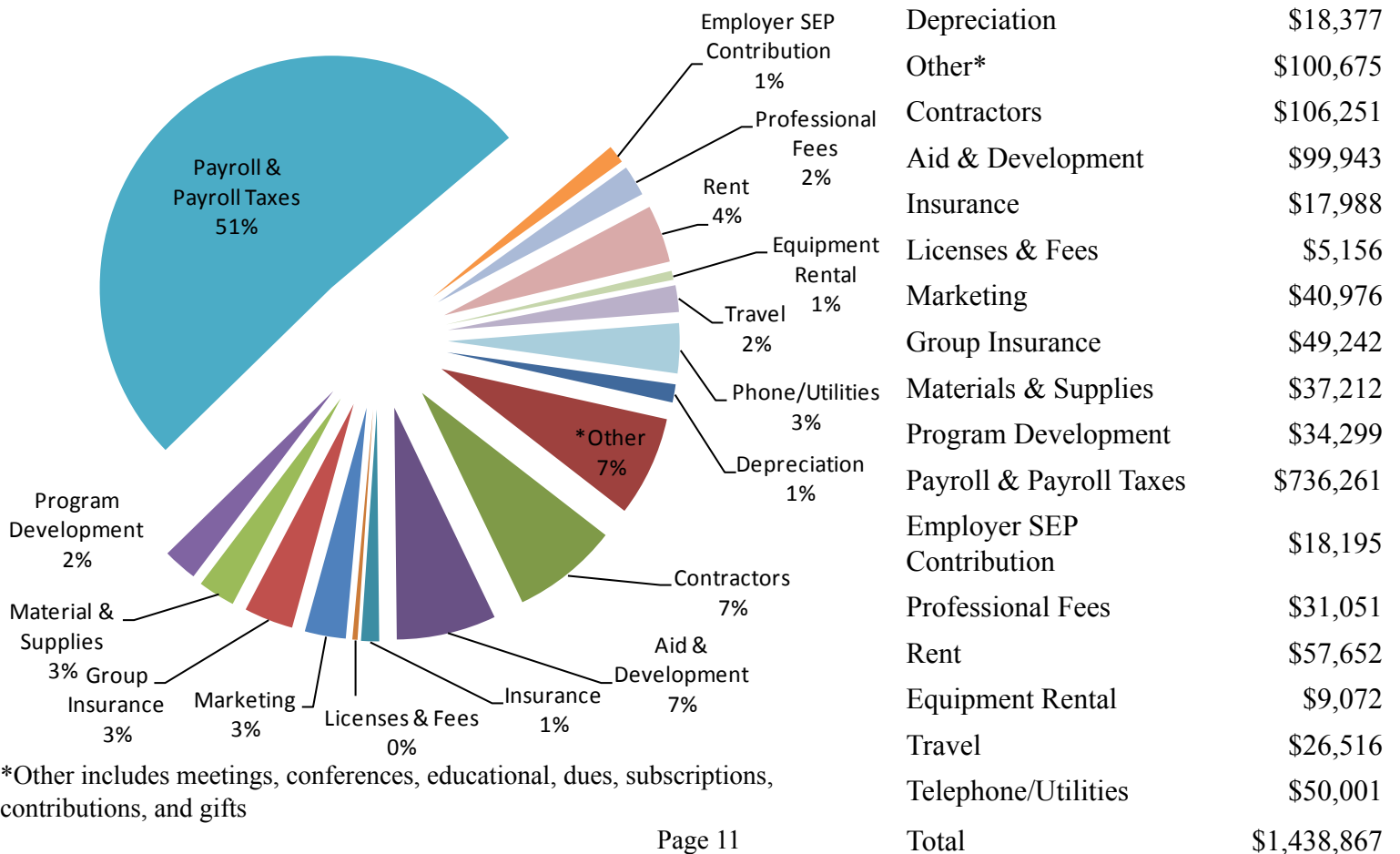
Placements	\$502,970
Contributions-Unrestricted	\$30,261
Contributions-Restricted	\$89,202
Fundraising	\$90,936
Homestudies	\$184,150
Development-Programs	\$132,222
Post-Adoption	\$214,867
Investment Return	\$(10,241)
Miscellaneous Fees*	\$16,752
Other**	\$33,702
Total	\$1,284,821

*Miscellaneous fees include step-parent fees, inter-state fees, escort fees, etc.

**Other includes Admin fees, inter-agency admin fees, and consulting fees



EXPENSES



*Other includes meetings, conferences, educational, dues, subscriptions, contributions, and gifts

WE THANK OUR BENEFACTORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

DONATIONS \$10,000-22,000

Anonymous CAS Family
Kirkpatrick, James & Michell
Leander, Amy
Anonymous Family
Stephanie Thompson

DONATIONS \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous Community Donor
CAS Foundation
Fannie Mae Foundation
Zupanic, Rudolph & Karen

DONATIONS \$1,000-\$4,999

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Martin, Rosemary
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Phillips, Minta
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Snyder, Nancy
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Vaughn, Robert & Marcia
Veazie, Waldemar & Pamela
Vine, John & Claudia Sims
Wachovia Foundation
Whitten, Christopher & Kim

DONATIONS \$500-\$999

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Bank of America Matching Gifts
Benotto, Franco & Loretta
Brown, Dr. William & Jamie
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DONATIONS \$100-\$499

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Tricia Wood
Social Work Coordinator



“We knew the moment we saw Samuel’s face for the first time that he was our son, destined to be our third child. Having a career in the adoption field, it was an easy decision for us to expand our family through adoption. For us, there was something deeper as well... a nagging of sorts that would not go away until we landed in Africa and held Sam in our arms. CAS helped us to fulfill our dream, as well as help a child who otherwise would have passed away due to his condition upon being abandoned. We know, now more than ever, that it is imperative to work with an agency that not only matches orphans with their forever families, but also has the resources to care for the sick and to sustain those children who cannot be adopted. We are grateful for the services of CAS as they helped us to find our son. But we are equally grateful for the work they continue to do, around the world, on behalf of those voiceless children who deserve food, shelter, love, and protection.”

--Rebecca A., CAS Parent



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